

FLIP-STYLE USER INTERFACEABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A flip-style user interface for controlling a display on a device such as a computer system, and a method thereof. Layers of flexible material are coupled along one edge in a stack that is coupled to the computer system. A user flips the layers (e.g., leaves) in a manner similar to the way pages in a book are flipped. The separation and/or bending of the leaves caused by the flipping is translated into changes in the display. For example, a different page in a document, calendar, or address book can be displayed as the user moves (separates or bends) the leaves of the user interface. Separation of the leaves can be detected by conducting pads positioned on the top and bottom surfaces of each leaf, such that a pad on the surface of one leaf is in electrical contact with a corresponding pad on the facing surface of the adjacent leaf. The pads are separated when the leaves are separated, breaking the electrical connection and allowing the separation to be detected. Bending of the leaves can be detected using a strain gauge, an accelerometer, an optical sensor, or other such instruments. The rate at which the leaves are moved, the order in which they are moved (e.g., front to back, or vice versa), and the amount of deflection imparted to the leaves can be used to control various aspects of the display.